

mistake : and there are enthusiasts who expect that considerations of profit will gradually soften men's fighting instincts and reconcile the civilized world to unbroken peace. So high are the hopes that may be built upon a system which is founded upon the narrowest conceptions of self-interest.

International trade may accordingly be regarded as a flood which is spreading ideas and inventions throughout the world and does not permit them to be monopolized by any particular nation. But we must not forget that from the beginning of human civilization there must have been a current, however slow and intermittent, which maintained some intercommunication between the races of mankind. There is no tribe, however backward, which is unacquainted with the use of fire : the plough and the loom are known almost universally. We can hardly believe that these discoveries—and other surprising similarities between the culture of widely separated peoples—originated independently at several centres; and we must then suppose that in the course of ages a knowledge of them filtered gradually around the world. Trade routes have been respected by the most barbarous nations; the blackmail that they levied spared sufficiently high trading profits : and we find that amber from the Baltic was well-known in Asia centuries before the Trojan war, and that Greek ornaments and vases reached Northern Europe when, to the people

of the
Mediterranean. it was a land of
terrifying fable.
Some inventions were so patently
useful as to
command immediate adoption : the
spread of
others would be impeded by the force
of custom
until it was urged by some special
pressure.
Such may have been exerted by rulers
of intelligence or by religious priesthods.
But more
potent influences would be those of
war and